**How Will the Prairie Dog Habitat and Population Change?**

Choose 1 idea and tell what would happen.

**Scene 1;** A rancher buys the land where the prairie dogs live. He builds a fence around the area and digs a water well. Then he lets 25 head of cattle graze on the area, turning it into a pasture. Describe what will happen to the prairie dogs and their habitat over the next 5 years. In 10 years, what will the area be like if the cattle reproduce and continue to live in the pasture?

**Scene 2:** A very large thunderstorm rolls onto the prairie where the prairie dogs live. Lightning strikes the ground and the grass catches on fire and spreads quickly. Describe what happens to the area and the prairie dogs. In 3 years what will the area look like? Will there be any prairie dogs? What about in 10 years?

**Scene 3:** A farmer buys the prairie where the prairie dogs live. He plows up the prairie and plants a crop. What happens to the prairie dogs? If the farmer stops farming the land after 5 years, what will happen to the land? The prairie dogs? How long would it take for the prairie to come back? Why do you think this?